

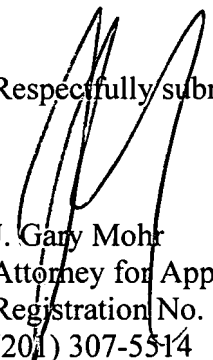
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Rejection of claims 1 - 17 and 19 under 35 USC 102 in view of Kryzyanowski, Applicants have restricted the claims to a retaining rod that moves axially within the surgical instrument. Kryzyanowski retaining member doesn't and can't move axially within the instrument for which it is a component.

In response to the Examiner's Object to claim 18, Applicants have followed the Examiner's recommendation and made it an independent claim with the limitations of the claim it was dependant upon.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this Case.

Respectfully submitted,



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